

Bucking

A mule or horse cannot buck if you have a piece of broom handle clamped down under their tail.

False. Whoever came up with this one is having fun with you. Mule boss, Howdy Fowler (Texas) states, “A favorite cowboy game was to ride by and stick a limb or stick of some kind under your mount’s tail and watch ya get bucked off.”



Howdy Fowler
Photo courtesy History.com

I can reassure you that a mule is capable of bucking at anytime and with justifiable cause. Usually it is the result of having to endure an ill fitting saddle, an abusive rider, harsh training methods or from the mule being under a lot of pressure from too much stimulation at the time. An unskilled rider that is unseated will reassure the mule that bucking is one way to get out of the situation at hand. That itself creates a habitual buckler. To be clear, a broom handle or stick clamped down underneath a mule or horse’s tail will set off fireworks in the corral for sure!



Calf/Goat Killers

Mules will kill your calves or goats. Unfortunately there is truth to this. Herders owning mules should have strong and adequate fencing to protect their sheep, calves or goats from being harmed. You see, young mules are very playful by nature. They are inquisitive creatures and tenacious when it comes to playing games. In other words, they won’t let up. Horse mules (geldings) are more so in this category than mare mules. Mule handler/trainer Cindi Slemp (Missouri) states, “when the mules are loose in the pasture, my goats know to watch for them. The big ones will run them down and stomp on them. However my little donkeys are different, they help protect the goats from the mules, coyotes and the neighbors dog.”